Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00176 231329Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 HA-05 EB-08 MCT-01 /086 W
----------107630 231602Z /43
R 231155Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4548
INFO AMMBASSY BELGRADE 2178
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0176

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CZ, GW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPD DELEGATION

SUMMARY: SPD DELEGATION LED BY HERBERT WEHNER CAME HERE PRIMARILY TO LISTEN. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE ADVANCED NORMALIZATION PROCESS ALTHOUGH FEW CONCRETE RESULTS EMERGED ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. FONMIN CHNOUPEK EXPECTED TO VISIT BONN IN MARCH AND PRESIDENT HUSAK IN SECOND QUARTER OF 1978. END SUMMARY.

1. A DELEGATION OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) MEMBERS OF THE FRG BUNDESTAG LED BY HERBERT WEHNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND BRUNO FRIEDRICH, ITS VICECHAIRMAN, VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA JANUARY 11-14. VISIT HAD ORIGINATED IN 1976 WHEN WEHNER,
A LEADING PROPONENT OF
WILLY BRANDT'S OSTPOLITIK, SOUGHT TO AID CSSR AMBASSADOR IN BONN GOTZ
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00176 231329Z

,
WHO WAS THEN UNDER FRG PRESS ATTACKS FOR HIS SECRET POLICE BACKGROUND
.
WEHNER INVITED GOTZ TO VISIT HIM AND SUGGESTED A CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT BONN. THIS WAS COUNTERED BY A SUGGESTION THAT AN SPD PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT PRAGUE, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE DIRECTLY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

BETWEEN SPD HQ AND CSSR EMBASSY IN BONN, BUT SUCH THINGS AS CHARTER 77 SITUATION HERE CAUSED YEAR'S DELAY IN CARRYING OUT VISIT.

2. WEHNER TOOK AND STUCK TO THE LINE THAT HE CAME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO HEAR WHAT ITS LEADERS HAD TO SAY. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY, HE HEARD--AT LENGTH--FROM, AMONG OTHERS, PRESIDENT HUSAK, PARTY SECRETARY BILAK, FEDERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN INDRA, AND FONMIN CHNOUPEK, ALL BUT THE LAST NAMED ALSO PARTY PRESIDIUM MEMBERS.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK GRIPES INCLUDED:

(A) FEAR OF GERMAN INTENTIONS--"CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS A PENINSULA IN A GERMANIC SEA."

(B) FRG INSISTENCE ON A BERLIN CLAUSE IN AGREEMENTS. CZECHOSLOVAKS POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY IT CAUSES THEM TO SIGN AGREEMENTS THAT INCLUDE BERLIN PARTICIPATION. SPD DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BE FORGOTTEN IN FAVOR OF LESS FORMAL ARRANGMENTS SUCH AS EXCHANGES OF NOTES, WHICH CHNOUPEK REJECTED AS NOT MEETING DEMANDS OF PROPER DIPLOMATIC FORM. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT FORMATION OF A BORDER COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH MINOR ISSUES OUTSIDE OF DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT THE GOC THOUGHT IT COULD DO NOTHING ON THIS IN VIEW OF THE BERLIN ISSUE.

(C) SLOW PROGRESS ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. AT LEAST ONE SPD DELEGATE AGREED TO LOOK INTO THIS INFORMALLY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00176 231329Z

(D) EXTRADITION OF SKYJACKERS. GOC INSISTED ON CORRECTNESS OF ITS POSITION THAT SKYJACKERS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY HAD HIJACKED THE PLANE FOR TRIAL. SOME SPD DELEGATES FAVORED RETURN OF SKYJACKERS WHEN INTENT WAS CLEARLY CRIMINAL AND NOT POLITICAL.

(E) EC-CEMA COOPERATION. GOC EXPRESSED URGENCY IN IMPLEMENTING THIS AND COMPLAINED OF "INELASTIC" ATTITUDE IN BRUSSELS. DELEGATION SAID THEY WOULD TAKE UP MATTER THROUGH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHANNELS IN EC.

4. CALL ON HUSAK: DELEGATION FOUND HUSAK AFFABLE AND WELL INFORMED. HE SAID THAT HE IS A REGULAR READER OF FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG AND DER SPIEGEL. IN DISCUSSING HIS PLANNED VISIT TO FRG (WHICH IS NOW EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND TO BE PRECEDED BY VISIT BY CHNOUPEK IN MARCH) HE DELIGHTED HIS AUDIENCE BY REPEATEDLY SAYING: "THIS WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT BY A CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT TO GERMANY," APPARENTLY FORGETTING HIS WP ALLY, GDR.

5. BILAK WAS ALSO NOTABLY RELAXED, BUT FRG EMBASSY IMPRESSION IS THA
T

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DELEGATION WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY HIS VIEWS OR PERSONALITY.

6. CONVERSATION WITH INDRA LED TO NEAR EXPLOSION ON PART OF WEHNER. INDRA REJECTED THE IDEA OF REGULAR BILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS (I.E. ON MULTI-PARTY BASIS, AS OPPOSTED TO THE SINGLE-PARTY BASIS OF THIS DEL) BECAUSE OF BERLIN PROBLEM. HE SUGGESTED BUNDESTAG SHOULD ESTABLISH A GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WEHNER REPLIED THAT AS LONG AS HE HELD HIS POSITION THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH GROUP, THEN POINTED OUT PROBLEM OF MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN CDU AND CSU MEMBERS WOULD CAUSE.

7. FRG EMBASSY FEELS VISIT WAS USEFUL AND NOTES THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER VISITS AT MINISTERIAL AND LAND PRESIDENT LEVEL IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ARE BEING PLANNED, WHICH WILL MAINTAIN MOMENTUM.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRAGUE 00176 231329Z

IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND BITTER MEMORIES WILL OF COURSE PREVENT RELATIONS FROM SOON BEING REALLY "NORMAL".

8. DISSIDENTS: CHARTER 77 SPOKESMAN JIRI HAJEK SOUGHT CONTACT WITH THE DELEGATION, BUT WAS TOLD THAT WHILE THERDSWAS SYMPATHY FOR HIS AIMS, DIRECT CONTACT WAS INAPPROPRIATE. HAJEK, ON WHOM MRS. WILLY BRANDT HAD CALLED IN AN EARLY 1977 VISIT HERE, WAS ALSO INFORME D,
HOWEVER, THAT WEHNER'S DELEGATION WOULD BE DISCUSSING MATTERS OF INTEREST TO CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS.

9. THE SPD DELEGATION DID DISCUSS SEVERAL OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN CASES, INCLUDING THAT OF IMPRISONED JOURNALIST WERNER GENGENBACH, AS WELL AS CASES OF SEVERAL IMPRISONED CHARTER SIGNERS-- PRIMARILY LEDERER, LASTUVICKA AND MAHACEK. CZEHCOSLOVAK SIDE MADE NO FIRM COMMITMENTS, BUT HINTED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THESE CASES WOULD BE CLEARED UP BEFORE HUSAK VISIT TO BONN. GENGENBACH HAD YET TO BE RELEASED JANUARY 23.
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAGUE00176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-1216
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780133/aaaabcbj.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64fc24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3730713
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SPD DELEGATION SUMMARY: SPD DELEGATION LED BY HERBERT WEHNER CAME HERE PRIMARILY TO LISTEN. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE ADVANCED NORMALIZ
TAGS: PEPR, CZ, GE, SPD, (WEHNER, HERBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64fc24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014